



Continental Divide Research Learning Center

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<http://www.nps.gov/romo/education/CDRLC>

RESEARCH and RESOURCES DAY

Rocky Mountain National Park

Saturday June 12, 2004

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium
Estes Park, Colorado

***Everyone is invited to attend this public research conference
RSVP not required***

Tentative schedule as of April 23, 2004

9:00-9:15	Welcome Introductions Announcements
9:15-9:45	Rocky Mountain National Park Hummingbird Inventory and Monitoring Fred and Tena Engelman, Volunteers in Park The purpose of the project is to study hummingbird species and associated habitat in Rocky Mountain National Park. This task includes capturing, identifying, banding, measuring, and promptly releasing hummingbirds; analyzing resulting demographic data; and observing favorable habitat. The project is conducted under federal and state permits, and banding information is reported to the Bird Banding Laboratory, U.S. Geologic Survey, Patuxent, Maryland. During 2003, the first year of this five-year project, researchers captured and banded nearly 600 hummingbirds at several locations within the Park. Information obtained over the course of the project will provide insight on hummingbird population size, population physical condition, reproductive success, site fidelity, and survivorship that can be useful to Rocky Mountain National Park in future years.
9:45-10:00	Q&A Break
10:00-10:30	Cultural Landscape Preservation in the US National Parks Manish Chalana, Design and Planning, University of Colorado Traditionally, the US National Park Service (NPS) viewed landscapes under their jurisdiction through a nature/culture dichotomy and obscured most obvious traces of prior human activity in those deemed to be natural. Theoretical advances in historic preservation and cultural geography have resulted a more integrated cultural resource management practice, but much remains to be done. This talk addresses the approaches NPS is using to evaluate and interpret cultural landscapes in the National Parks as a whole and in Rocky Mountain National Park in particular. I begin with an historical overview of cultural landscape management in the National Parks. I then provide a preliminary assessment of the developing Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI), a program begun by NPS in 1993 to document the cultural landscapes on their properties. I next focus more closely on Rocky Mountain National Park, critically reviewing the list of cultural landscapes in the park. In the process I uncover some of the unresolved conflicts of cultural landscape management within the park and the service as a whole.
10:30-10:45	Q&A Break
10:45-11:15	Boreal Toads in RMNP: Research, the Decline and a 2004 Update Erin Muths, USGS, Fort Collins Boreal toads are long-time residents in Rocky Mountain National Park but have fallen on hard times. We have witnessed and documented catastrophic declines of boreal toads at 2 of the 4 remaining breeding sites in the Park over the last 10 years. In this presentation I

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	will outline our research on this amphibian, the history of its decline and possible causes, and detail recent results from our population studies. In particular, conventional wisdom suggests that male boreal toads return each year to the breeding season and, if absent in a particular year, will be even more likely to be present at the breeding site the following year. We estimated the probability of absence of male toads at breeding sites at two locations in Rocky Mountain National Park and found that the probability of absence was much greater than has been thought previously. In fact, our data indicate that not only do male toads <u>not</u> return to the breeding site every year, but may be absent for multiple years.
11:15-11:30	Q&A Break
11:30-12:00	Habitat Utilization and Body Condition of Black Bears at RMNP Roger Baldwin, University of New Mexico at Las Cruces, and L. C. Bender, U.S. Geological Survey, New Mexico Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit From 27 June through 4 December, 2003, we trapped, radio-collared, and tracked black bears (bears) at Rocky Mountain National Park as part of a 3-4 year study of bear population dynamics and habitat relations. We used Aldrich foot snares to capture 8 bears, totaling 7 individual bears (5 female, 2 male). One female had a cub. A single culvert trap was also used but resulted in no captures. Each bear had several body measurements taken (total length, girth, etc.) at capture, and again during winter den checks conducted in January 2004. We relocated radio-collared bears a total of 126 times after captures and began initial analysis of bear movements using a geographic information system. Den sites were located for 6 of 7 bears. Bears denned from ~25 October to ~24 November, and typically chose den locations in steep forested areas.
12:00-12:15	Q&A
12:15-1:00	Lunch on your own
1:00-1:15	Welcome Introductions Announcements
1:15-2:00	Current Research and Resource Management in RMNP Terry Terrell, Research Administrator, RMNP

To print the most to date schedule, see: <http://www.nps.gov/romo/education/CDRLC/events>

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